THE BIG TAKE OVER

#3

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This issue comes to you from **LOS ANGELES.** I just got here yesterday and I will be looking into the scene that exists here for a while. For those of you shivering in your apartments back in the East, it's 73 out here.

As of this issue, this publication will be covering a few other bands than the STIMULATORS. They are currently the most exciting band in New York (and for that matter the U.S.A.) but a few other bands deserve some mention too.

Now for some of the local concerts I've seen: The BUZZCOCKS at the RITZ **NOV 23** was spectacular as usual. Never mind a few mistakes. You never make mistakes???? They played a lot of old favorites that they didn't last year like TIMES UP & OH SHIT.

Also, the 999/ATHLETICO SPIZZ'80 show at **NIKKO'S ROCK CLUB** in Allentown, PA was good. I expected 999 to be the outstanding dance band (outstanding band too, ya know) they are, but I was pleasantly surprised with SPIZZ. I had always liked WHERE'S CAPT. KIRK but the rest of the set, including SPOCK'S MISSING was as good. I saw SPIZZ play twice on **THANKSGIVING** at **CLUB 57** & at **MUDD**. The Irving was not well attended, but SPIZZ put on a truly comical show (reminded me of ALBERTO Y LOST TRIOS PARANOIS) and the show at the Mudd was as good as the show at Nikko's.

The following night (Nov.28) the STIMULATORS played at **MAX'S KANSAS CITY** in New York. This show was an overwhelming success and I'd like to take this chance to discuss it in more detail. This was the band's first NY appearance since Oct.18, and the club was packed back past the bar. The STIMS went on first and third, sandwiched around two awful sets by CHEETAH CHROME (and to think he was once a neat lead guitarist in the **DEAD BOYS**). In the first STIMS set, the bouncers at Max's decided to display their talents by vigorously protecting the paying customers ie: bullying them. As the tables in front of the stage gradually fell to the dancing crowd, the bouncers began to get worried. They started throwing people about. At one point, one of them mistook vocalist PATRICK for a stage-invading fan. This conscientious Max's employee proceeded to hurl Patrick into a table directly in front. At **last**, the situation was resolved when the last table fell, and the crowd was finally able to just enjoy.

When the second set started, the tables were disposed of before the conclusion of the first number RUN RUN RUN It was very reminiscent of previous STIMULATORS shows at **MAX'S**: band churning, crowd contorting, bouncers baffled. Patrick leaps three feet in the air as YOU WILL NEVER BREAK MY HEART crashes in. Lead guitarist DENISE MERCEDES (one of the very best) grits her teeth and drummer HARLEY (still 3 months shy of his 14th birthday) puffs his cheeks as they roll through the awesome introduction to CRAZY HOUSE ROCK The crowd reminds me of a beserk popcorn popper. By the time LOUD FAST RULES! draws the show to an exciting conclusion, the audience is ready to die of exhaustion. One breathless fan tells me that he hadn't believed some of **JOHNNY VILE'S** observations on a Max's show in the last issue (CRADLE-ROBBER 2) but that he had changed his mind. Another who had changed his mind was a bouncer. He nostalgically exclaimed "This is the way Max's USED to be!"

The next evening (Nov.29) the STRANGLERS were rotten at **CLUB 57**. I always thought their recordings were OK, but they rot live. They have the worst vibes of any band I've ever see. They are boring and stupid, and they are a bunch of tough-guy posers. They even degraded women during NICE & SLEAZY by enticing a female to dance on the stage without clothes. Jerks. I'll never listen to their records again. (Anyone need some Strangler records, Cheap?). Oh I forgot, they kept putting down New York cause their equipment got ripped off when they played here last month. So why are they playing again? Who needs them. Great band, shitty attitude. (See "Bring on The Nubiles" for more sexism)

Friday Dec.5, the STIMULATORS played at **LAFAYETTE COLLEGE** in Easton, Pennsylvania. The hall they played was actually a gymnasium (the basket ball hoop was no more than 5 feet above Harley's head as he played the drums on a makeshift stage of tables chained together). (Former) Bassist ANNE didn't make the trip for personal reasons. Her replacements ROSS & NICK both filled in well. The band also played as a trio for a few songs. A student of the college who has been a longtime fan of the STIMS got up to play drums for a song that the band hadn't done in 2 years (a nice hometown touch). The students began to dance during the band's reggaeish songs BLIND AMBITION, FACE VALUE, SKEGGE SKANKER and continued to dance during the Faster rock oriented numbers. Many of the students told Denise after the show that they hadn't seen anything like this before but they had truly enjoyed the STIMULATORS performance. Nick's execution was nothing less than outstanding. Formerly the STIMS roadie, he was familiar with the songs & seemed to have no difficulty playing them. Many of the students also expressed surprise with Denise's proficiency on lead guitar as well as Harley's youthful exuberance. It was a fun evening, and the students there asked the band to come back sometime.

After that performance, nothing exciting happened until the BAD BRAINS played at **BOTONY** Friday & Saturday - Dec 26-27th ([redacted] except the RUTS at Hurrah's*.) These BAD BRAINS shows were wild! The BB's have a flair for presenting an all out performance. They are, without a doubt, the Fastest rock n' roll band in the world. When you play their single PAY TO CUM for friends, they think you're playing a 45 at 78 RPM. But the BAD BRAINS can also surprise by their involved reggae cuts, their slower more powerful songs, and their incredible talent of changing speeds of song midway thru. The Botony is a great, great club & it had a super atmosphere both nights as alot of people reacted to the BAD BRAINS in an enthusiastic manner.

Opening band EVEN WORSE also inspired the audience with some hardcore rock. And on Saturday, everyone was treated to a **surprise** guest appearance by the STIMULATORS. They played 5 songs on the BAD BRAINS equipment with new bassist Nick. All in all, all 3 bands made some new fans. It was quite an evening, one that I won't forget soon!

(Short review? Well have you ever tried to review your own band? Suffice to say we were so thrilled we could have died. And of course, Nick puked on the audience (fake green stuff, but the effect was achieved. I was so excited I could have puked for real myself!)

I didn't go to any clubs on **NEW YEAR'S EVE.** There was no one to see. Besides, I had more fun staying in.

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* who were sensational, and The Skids at Hurrah too, who were almost as good. Incidently, Ruts, who are now called Ruts D.C. since their singer Malcomn died, encored with "Love Song," last year's comeback single by The Damned, who are apparently friends of the Ruts. What a shock! Incidently, The Ruts bassplayer Segs is now the singer.

The STIMULATORS show at **LEFT BANK** (Mt. Vernon, NY in Westchester) Friday Jan 2 was quite interesting. The club is in a building that used to be a bank. It is spacious & fairly elegant (without being pretentiously antique like the **RITZ**) yet it's usually $5.00 to get in & drinks are cheap compared to most nightclubs. The crowd is very sub-urban & comes to experience new music. DJ Ralph Newman regularly gives the audience a dose of DEVO, CARS, POLICE, B-52's, etc. and hundreds dance. There is nothing wrong with this! It's better for these people to go out to clubs & dance to new wave rock than alot of things. And they keep on dancing when better groups like the DAMNED are played. These people are starting to come around to the music we know and love. Even better, they don't leave for the bar when the band comes on: they want to see. The crowd seemed to like the STIMS & the band delivered 2 very exciting sets.

The following night, **SAT JAN 3**, the STIMS played their first Manhatten gig in a month at **TRAX** on 72nd St. The occasion was a great double bill with a bunch of Northern Irish skinhead tough-guys-brothers known as the OUTCASTS. The OUTCASTS however, have never learned the art of passing themselves off as balding tourists, as as a result, they could not get a visa at the last minute to come to the States. As Harley put it "If you had seen these guys, you wouldn't let them into this country either!" The STIMULATORS had played with the OUTCASTS once before in **BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND** at the **ULSTER HALL** in the **FIRST ANNUAL PUNK/NEW WAVE FESTIVAL.** The OUTCASTS have a few singles & an album out on GOOD VIBRATIONS RECORDS in Northern Ireland. So the Trax show was suppossed to be 2 bands who were Good Vibrations Recording artists. With the OUTCASTS as no-shows, the STIMS ended up doing 2 shows. In the middle of the second set, the band gave out 11 free OUTCASTS singles of the song TEENAGE REBEL c/w LOVE IS FOR SOPS to people in the audience wearing something green. One wise guy came up to the stage with a Heineken bottle. Again, the sets were thrilling. This band always seems to deliver. Maybe that's why they are one of the best. They're consistent.

California is OK. I'll be back Jan 23rd.

Jack Rabid

****LATE NEWS**** The STIMULATORS will be at **ROCK LOUNGE** (W'B'way at Canal) Jan 24th & and the **930 CLUB** in Washington D.C. with the BAD BRAINS Jan 30th. These are the only things coming up right now.

Finally: The BUZZCOCKS guitarist STEVE DIGGLE told me they'll be back to the United States in a couple of months after they record their fourth album (fifth if you count SINGLES GOING STEADY).

Now if only STIFF LITTLE FINGERS will come back as promised.....